

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF DR. RUDY
CASTRUITA

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Dr. Rudy Castruita of California on the occasion of his retirement as San Diego County Superintendent of Schools. I have known Dr. Castruita since 1994 when he became County Superintendent in San Diego and have always been impressed by his tireless commitment to children and the students across the school districts he served. He dedicated his career to furthering the cause of education and to helping our kids learn.

Prior to his appointment as Superintendent in San Diego, he served with great distinction for six years as superintendent of the Santa Ana Unified School District where he was recognized for his tremendous leadership and innovation. Among the recognition his leadership has brought to local schools are several highly coveted California School Boards Association Golden Bell Awards for leading edge efforts to address the educational needs of students, the Federal Blue Ribbon Schools designation and California Distinguished Schools designation. He has also received the prestigious Marcus Foster Award from the Association of California School Administrators and in 1992, he was named California's Superintendent of the Year.

As a San Diegan with deep roots in the public schools there, I took great pride in the role that Dr. Castruita played as Chair of the statewide effort to set standards for high school graduates in the state of California. This endeavor was perhaps the most important state education reform of the past several decades. He also served on the State Superintendent's Advisory Committee for implementing the Public School Accountability Act of 1999, a law that helped to instill rigorous standards into the curriculum and educational delivery system throughout the state.

He also served on the Governance Task Force of the statewide committee to develop a Master Plan for Education, and State Reading First Committee. Dr. Castruita's abiding personal commitment to eradicating illiteracy across our community has made the San Diego County Office of Education a beacon in literacy programs and distinguished him as a prominent leader in this important issue.

I have had the pleasure, along with a number of state leaders including governors from our state and other state constitutional officers to utilize the San Diego County Office of Education's state-of-the-art regional technology center that exists today because of Dr. Castruita's efforts. His enthusiasm and interest in cutting-edge technology to lift student achievement resulted in his being named one of 12 "tech savvy" superintendents in the nation by eSchool News.

In San Diego, we are also proud of Dr. Castruita's notable commitment to national leadership, serving on several national boards including Scholarship America and the prestigious Education Research & Development Institute. He was nominated by the President of the United States and appointed by Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. Secretary of Defense, and Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education, to serve on the President's Advisory for the Department of Defense Schools, which are military-based schools overseas.

He has also built impressive and lasting relationships in the community with our public schools that includes work with the Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, San Diego United Way/CHAD, the San Diego YMCA, the Natural History Museum, Laurels for Leaders, and the California Center for the Arts.

His work on behalf of California's children and our schools has made a real difference across our state, and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude for championing these issues. It is hard to imagine substantive discussions of education policy in our state without Dr. Castruita involved. He has provided me with tremendous guidance and advice on these important issues on countless occasions and his wise counsel will be missed. I wish both he and his family well in his retirement. Dr. Castruita continues a lasting and impressive legacy of commitment to public education within California and across the country as he begins other endeavors that will undoubtedly contribute to the well being of children and public education.

Thank you very much Mr. Speaker for allowing me this time to honor such a great leader and important figure to education.

CONGRATULATING EVAN SCOTT
GAWLIK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Evan Scott Gawlik of Denton on his commitment, contribution and success as a finalist in this year's Intel Science Talent Search.

The Intel Science Talent Search is a science competition for high school seniors. Intel is committed to encouraging and developing America's brightest youths so that they may well be on the road to becoming tomorrow's elite scientists. As an Intel STS finalist, Mr. Gawlik is displaying to the world that he has exceptional promise and has the potential to become one of tomorrow's great scientists. Through education programs such as the Intel Science Talent Search, Intel works to inspire and educate children in communities around the world in the areas of science, mathematics and engineering.

One of those finalists was Evan Scott Gawlik, a constituent of the 26th District, who

attends the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science in Denton. This honor will most certainly serve as a milestone in this young man's career as a scientist.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Evan Scott Gawlik for his efforts and for receiving this commendable award given by the Intel Science Talent Search. His commitment to science and to helping others serves as an inspiration to all.

IN HONOR OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNITED SERVICE
ORGANIZATION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor, recognition and celebration of the 65th Anniversary of the United Service Organization (USO), a non-profit, civilian organization established in 1941. Since then, the USO has filled a void in the lives of men and women serving in the U.S. military, by providing them with entertainment, recreation, support services and the priceless sense of connection to home.

In 1941, the USO was incorporated in the State of New York. By 1944, USOs had been established in more than 3,000 locations across the country, held aloft by its volunteer membership. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who initially challenged six non-profit organizations to form a military support organization, became the first USO Honorary Chairperson—a role accepted by every President ever since. The mission of the USO has remained unwavering: To serve the spiritual, social, welfare, educational and entertainment needs of the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

Over the years, thousands of entertainers, famous and unknown, have volunteered their time and efforts to perform to grateful audiences on U.S. military bases around the world. From the legendary music of Duke Ellington to the manic comedy of Robin Williams, the USO tradition has carried on. The brilliant legacy of volunteerism that illuminates the life of the late Bob Hope, whose name is synonymous with the USO, is carried on through the song, dance and comedy of every volunteer who continues to keep the spirit of hope alive for our men and women serving our country far from home.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the volunteers, past and present, of the United Service Organization. During times of war and peace, the USO continues to serve as a vital bond of calm and familiarity, uplifting the spirit of men and women in uniform with heartening support and entertainment reminiscent of home. We extend our deepest gratitude to those who have traveled thousands of miles, crossing perilous borders and lands of strife, to uplift

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